The Cleveland Museum of Art

Cleveland Museum of Art and the Government of The Kingdom of Cambodia Announce the Voluntary Return of 10th-Century Sculpture

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Caroline Guscott

The Cleveland Museum of Art
cguscott@clevelandart.org
(216) 707-2261

Phnom Penh and Cleveland, May 12, 2015 – The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and The Cleveland Museum of Art announced today that the Museum has agreed to return to the Kingdom of Cambodia a tenth-century sculpture of Hanuman acquired by the Museum in 1982. The return of the Hanuman will allow Cambodia to reconstruct a multi-figured tableau associated with the eastern gate of the Prasat Chen Temple at the historic site of Koh Ker. The Museum initiated the return of the sculpture based on new information about the provenance of the Hanuman provided by Cambodia and on the basis of its own research into the history of the piece, as well as the Museum's wish to support the Cambodian project of reuniting the sculptures from Prasat Chen.

His Excellency Chan Tani, Secretary of State of Cambodia, expressed his government's appreciation for the return of the sculpture and the opportunity that it will provide for reuniting the various sculptures once located at Prasat Chen. He added that "The voluntary return of the Hanuman demonstrates the Cleveland Museum of Art's sensitivity to the importance of Koh Ker to the Cambodian people. The return also highlights the serious looting that has occurred in our country." Dr. William M. Griswold, Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, noted that "We are pleased to welcome a new chapter in our long collaboration with Cambodia. The return of the Hanuman will facilitate Cambodia's plans to reconstruct a most important Khmer temple. Furthermore, this gesture paves the way for future cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Cleveland Museum of Art. We look forward to working with our colleagues in Cambodia for many years to come."

# # #

About the Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art is renowned for the quality and breadth of its collection, which includes more than 63,000 artworks and spans 6,000 years of achievement in the arts. The museum is a significant

international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and performing arts and is a leader in digital innovations. One of the top comprehensive art museums in the nation, recognized for its award-winning Open Access program and free of charge to all, the Cleveland Museum of Art is located in the University Circle neighborhood.

The museum is supported in part by residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and made possible in part by the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), which receives support from the State of Ohio and the National Endowment for the Arts. The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically. For more information about the museum and its holdings, programs and events, call 888-CMA-0033 or visit cma.org [1].

Press Announcements [2]

Source URL: https://www.clevelandart.org/about/press/media-kit/cleveland-museum-art-and-government-kingdom-cambodia-announce-voluntary-return-10th-century

Links

[1] https://www.clevelandart.org

[2] https://www.clevelandart.org/about/press/media-kit